

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 TRSE-00 DHA-05 INT-05 OIC-02 IOE-00

AF-10 ARA-14 EA-12 EUR-12 NEA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-05 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /122 W

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1380

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS GENEVA 8164

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM

SUBJECT: NGO CONFERENCE ON DISCRIMINATION AGAINST
INDIGENOUS POPULATIONS IN THE AMERICAS

REF: (A) GENEVA 8059, (B) GASTON-SHAPIRO/HEWITT TELCON 9/23

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LETTER (DISCUSSED REF B)
FORWARDED TO ROMESH CHANDRA, CHAIRMAN OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE
ON RACISM, RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, APARTHEID AND DECOLONI-
ZATION PROTESTING HIS REFUSAL TO PERMIT THE U.S. RIGHT OF
REPLY AT FINAL PLENARY OF SUBJECT CONFERENCE. BOTH LETTER
AND STATEMENT (SEPTTEL) WERE RELEASED TO PRESS AND QUOTES
FROM BOTH APPEARED IN SEPTEMBER 24 EDITION OF INTERNATION-
AL HERALD TRIBUNE.

2. NGO'S HAVE ISSUED NEWS RELEASE DENYING THAT THEY
REFUSED U.S. TIME TO SPEAK. NIALL MACDERMOT (INTERNA-
TIONAL COMMISSION OF JURISTS) AND EDYTH BALLANTYNE
(WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM)WILL
DISCUSS ISSUE WITH VANDEN HEUVEL 26 SEPTEMBER.

3. QUOTE: DEAR MR. CHANDRA:

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BY LETTER OF SEPTEMBER 12TH, 1977, I ACCEPTED ON
BEHALF OF MY GOVERNMENT YOUR INVITATION REQUESTING THAT
WE APPOINT GUESTS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE INTERNATIONAL NGO
CONFERENCE ON DISCRIMINATION AGAINST INDIGENOUS POPULA-
TIONS - 1977 - IN THE AMERICAS. MR. K. KIRKE KICKINGBIRD,
DIRECTOR OF THE INDIAN LEGAL CURRICULUM AND TRAINING

INSTITUTE FOR THE PROGRAM OF DEVELOPMENT OF INDIAN LAW,
AND MS. GLORIA GASTON-SHAPIO, HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICER OF
THE U.S. MISSION IN GENEVA HAVE BEEN ATTENDING THE
CONFERENCE.

BECAUSE OF MY STRONG COMMITMENT TO THE VALUE OF NON-
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND THE IMPORTANCE OF THEIR
WORK IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, I HAD EXPECTED THAT
YOUR FORUM WAS SERIOUSLY INTERESTED IN THE PROBLEMS OF
DISCRIMINATION AGAINST INDIGENOUS POPULATIONS. I HAD
HOPED THAT YOUR CONFERENCE BY FAIR PROCEDURES AND
HEARINGS WOULD HAVE GATHERED OBJECTIVE EVIDENCE THAT
COULD HAVE BEEN HELPFUL IN MY GOVERNMENT'S DETERMINATION
TO RECTIFY OLD WRONGS AND SEEK NEW PROGRAMS TO ASSURE
SOCIAL JUSTICE FOR THE AMERICAN INDIANS. IT WAS WITH
PROFOUND DISAPPOINTMENT HOWEVER, THAT I LEARNED THIS
EVENING THAT YOU WOULD NOT ACCORD OUR REPRESENTATIVES
AN OPPORTUNITY IN FRIDAY'S PLENARY SESSION TO PROVIDE
A FACTUAL RESPONSE TO THE MANY UNFOUNDED CHARGES THAT
HAVE BEEN REPORTED DURING THE WEEK.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PLENARY SESSION, MRS. BALLANTYNE,
WAS APPARENTLY WILLING TO GIVE SUCH PERMISSION ONLY TO
BE OVERRULED ON THE GROUNDS THAT IF ONE NATION SPOKE,
OTHERS WOULD WANT TO SPEAK AND SUCH A DEBATE WOULD INVOLVE
A RIGHT TO REPLY. I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT THAT WAS
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EXACTLY THE KIND OF DISCUSSION YOU WOULD HAVE SOUGHT IF
THE SUB-COMMITTEE WAS INTERESTED IN THE SUBSTANCE OF THE
PROBLEMS THAT IT WAS INVESTIGATING.

WE WELCOME DISCUSSIONS OF THE COMPLEX PROBLEMS OF
HUMAN RIGHTS AND EQUALLY IMPORTANT, WE REGARD IT AS CRU-
CIAL TO DUE PROCESS PROCEDURES THAT THOSE ACCUSED HAVE
THE RIGHT OF REPLY. FORTUNATELY THERE ARE RESPONSIBLE
INTERNATIONAL FORA WHERE THESE PROBLEMS CAN BE DISCUSSED
CONSTRUCTIVELY AND WHERE THEIR RESOLUTION IS HOPEFULLY
ADVANCED. SINCERELY, WILLIAM J. VANDEN HEUVEL, AMERICAN
AMBASSADOR. UNQUOTE.VANDEN HEUVEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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